

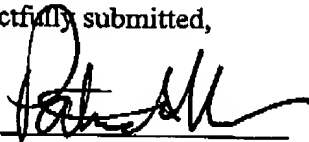
09/407,581

### REMARKS

Claims 1-7, 10-13, 15-16, and 18-19 are allowed. The Applicant herein cancels claim 43, drawn to an apparatus, without prejudice. The Applicant respectfully reserves the right to pursue that claim and related subject matter in a separate application.

The Applicant kindly thanks the Examiner for the conversation today, May 27, 2005. The Applicant looks forward to receiving a formal Notice of Allowance. Early action toward this end is courteously solicited. *The Examiner is kindly encouraged to telephone the undersigned in order to expedite any detail.* The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment in connection herewith to Deposit Account No. 50-1943.

Respectfully submitted,



Patrick H. Higgins

Reg. No. 39,709

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Date: May 27, 2005

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